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HURRICANE IRMA MANAGEMENT REPORT

Information contained in this report reflects HQ and regional reporting from the most recently completed operational period as well as other reports provided by HQ, regional and interagency sources.

National Incident Management Objectives

- Objective 1: Ensure that health and safety of the EPA response is considered at all times.
- Objective 2: Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, aggressive and well-coordinated manner.
- Objective 3: Ensure prompt review and processing of Fuel Waiver requests.
- Objective 4: Prepare for and provide Rapid Assessment of industrial facilities as requested by the States or under EPA's statutory program responsibilities for CERCLA Superfund, RMP and FRP facilities. Working with agencies in affected States, contact industrial sources within the impacted areas to determine their operational status and determine what support can be provided with the monitoring of the start-up of industrial sources along the coastal areas.
- Objective 5: Prepare for and provide Rapid Assessment & Technical Assistance Drinking Water & Wastewater facilities as requested by the State or local government. EPA will support State agencies in contacting drinking water and waste water systems.
- Objective 6: Prepare a Sustained Response Plan that outlines the resource and equipment needs for a long duration response.
- Objective 7: Activate the Agency's Crisis Communication Plan to insure effective and efficient coordination of all incident communications.
- Objective 8: Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where national state and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

Executive Summary

- EPA is ramping up in preparation for Hurricane Irma landfall in Puerto Rico (PR), the US Virgin Islands (USVI), and Florida. Irma is currently located about 140 miles Northwest of San Juan, Puerto Rico with winds of 180 miles per hour.
- Hurricane Irma is one of the most powerful Atlantic Hurricanes ever observed. Maximum sustained winds are 185 mph with higher gusts. Irma is an extremely dangerous Category 5 hurricane. The most recent model has the storm making landfall near West Palm Beach, FL on September 10th with winds of 140 MPH (Category 3). Forecasters expect Irma to make a second landfall at Savannah area, Georgia, on September 11th with winds of 110 MPH (Category 2).
- EPA Region 2 staff is tracking Hurricane Irma, which made landfall in Puerto Rico (PR) and the US Virgin Islands (USVI). The Region 2 Regional Emergency Operations Center (R2 REOC) is activated with an Incident Command Structure in place. R2 is also coordinating closely with the EPA Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (CEPD).
- EPA Region 4 continues to monitor Hurricane Irma's path and possible impacts to Region 4 states (FL, GA, SC and NC). The R4 REOC is activated at Level 2.
- The PR Emergency Operations Center and Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency are at full activation. The Governors of Florida, South Carolina, Georgia (6 counties), USVI and PR have declared states of emergency. The PR National Guard and USVI National Guard have been activated.
- Flights scheduled from southern Florida to parts of the Caribbean have been canceled as airports in the region are shutting down. The Key West International Airport will close the evening of September 7th for all commercial flights.
- The FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) remains at Level I (24/7 operations, Full ESFs and LNOs) in response to Hurricane IRMA.
- HQ Public Affairs developed a public facing EPA Response website. The URL for this site is: www.epa.gov/hurricaneirma. This web site is distinct from the EPA OSC Response website for the incident. The site was populated with a short profile narrative and the first incident news release.



Region 2 Significant Activities:

- R2 staff is tracking Hurricane Irma, which made landfall in Puerto Rico (PR) and the US Virgin Islands (USVI).
- The R2 REOC is activated with an Incident Command System (ICS) structure in place. R2 has activated the Regional Incident Coordination Team (RICT).
- R2 is coordinating closely with the EPA Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (CEPD). The REOC has shipped two satellite phones to CEPD in San Juan. The REOC is devising a staffing plan for after-hours response to cover for OSCs deployed to R6 for Hurricane Harvey.

- R2 generated a complete list of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and Oil Pollution Act (OPA) sites to prioritize post hurricane visits. Additionally, R2 created a list of other regulated facilities in order to conduct pre and post storm facility coordination and assessment.
- R2 initial EPA assessment teams are ready to deploy to PR and the USVI once a request for assistance and the Mission Assignment is available. Teams will focus on assessing any immediate threats from hazardous substance releases and oil spills, orphan hazardous containers, household hazardous waste, contaminated debris, and drinking water/wastewater (DW/WW) issues. EPA will also be following up on the conditions at our Superfund NPL and removal sites, oil sites, and regulated facilities.
- FEMA issued a Mission Assignment to EPA for the staffing of the ESF 10 desk at the Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC). EPA has stationed personnel at the FEMA R2 RRCC at the Naval Station Earle.

Mission Assignment Number	Funding Amount	Description of Assignment
MA 1509-237670	\$10,000.00	ESF# 10 Staffing of FEMA RRCC
Total Funds	\$10,000.00	

Number of R2 Personnel Involved:

Personnel	EPA Edison, NJ NYC San Juan, PR	FEMA RRCC Colts Neck, NJ	Puerto Rico Deployments	USVI Deployments	Totals
EPA	37	1	0	0	38
START/ RST	3				3
ERRS					0
Other Contractors	2				2
Totals	42	1	0	0	43

Superfund and Oil Sites: EPA has identified and conducted initial assessments at 23 Superfund and oil sites in Puerto Rico and U.S Virgin Islands. In advance of Irma, R2 has contacted all the responsible entities with regard to preparing for the storm.

Superfund Site Name	State	County	Status
Cruz Bay Oil Tank	USVI	St. Johns	Oil Response
Crum Bay Oil Spill at WAPA Facility	USVI	St. Thomas	Oil Response
Guayanilla Bay Oil Spill	PR	Guayanilla	Oil Response
Puma Caribe (CAPECO)	PR	Bayamon	Oil Response
TUTU Well Field	USVI	St. Thomas	NPL
Pesticide Warehouse 1	PR	Arecibo (00612)	NPL
The Battery Recycling Corp.	PR	Arecibo (00612)	Removal & NPL
Upjohn Facility	PR	Barceloneta (00617)	NPL
Cabo Rojo Groundwater	PR	Cabo Rojo (00623)	NPL
Hormigas Groundwater	PR	Caguas (00725)	NPL
Cidra Groundwater	PR	Cidra (08750)	NPL
Corozal Groundwater	PR	Corozal (00783)	Removal & NPL
Dorado Groundwater	PR	Dorado (00646)	NPL
Fibers Public Supply Wells	PR	Jobos (00654)	NPL
Juncos Landfill	PR	Jucos (00666)	NPL
Pesticide Warehouse III	PR	Manati (00701)	NPL
Maunabo Urbano Public Wells	PR	Maunabo (00707)	NPL
Scorpio Recycling	PR	Cabdela Ria Ward (00759)	NPL
Vega Baja Solid Waste Disposal	PR	Vega Baja (00763)	NPL
San German Groundwater	PR	San German (00683)	NPL
Papelera Puertoriquena, Inc.	PR	Utuado (00641)	NPL
Vega Alta Public Supply Wells	PR	Vega Alta (00762)	NPL
Atlantic Fleet Weapons	PR	Vieques (00765)	NPL

Regulated Facilities: EPA is communicating with the Risk Management Program (RMP) and Facility Response Plan (FRP) bulk oil facilities to ensure they are secure and identify any vulnerabilities.

Drinking Water / Waste Water (DW/WW) Assessments: EPA continues to coordinate with Puerto Rico and USVI concerning drinking water and waste water systems.

Region 4 Significant Activities:

- The REOC is activated at Level 2.
- The REOC has coordinated with FL, GA, SC, and NC concerning their readiness status.
- The REOC is compiling EPA regulated facility (RMP, FRP, CERCLA, DW/WW) data in preparation for potential assessments throughout Hurricane Irma's path.
- The REOC is meeting today on field operations and with the EPA Data Team.
- EPA Region will start producing Situation Reports on September 7th at 17:00 hrs.
- R4 Office of External Affairs and Superfund worked with HQ Public Affairs to develop information on the R4 process for evaluating status and follow up

Superfund and Oil Sites: EPA has identified approximately 22 current or former National Priorities List (NPL) sites within Florida's southernmost 100 miles. In advance of Irma, R4 is working with the responsible entities with regard to preparing for the storm.

FEMA and State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Activation Updates:

- On September 5th, FEMA Region 4 activated the RRCC and an EPA R4 OSC staffed the ESF-10 desk. FEMA R4 RRCC is at activation level 2. EPA will continue to staff the ESF-10 desk during regular business hours. Region 4 received a Mission Assignment to support ESF-10 activities in the RRCC.
- The FL state EOC (SEOC) is under Level 1 activation and R4 anticipates sending an OSC to staff the SEOC on September 8th. EPA and FL Department of Environmental Protection are compiling a list of RMP, FRP, CERCLA and other regulated facilities of interest that may require an assessment due to being in Irma's impact area.
- The SC SEOC is at OPCON IV (Monitoring) and TN is at Level IV (Monitoring). The EOC for the US territories PR is at Level IV (full activation) and USVI is at Level II (full activation).

EPA Headquarters Significant Activities:

The HQ EOC is activated to Level 1 in support of the R2 and R4 responses to Hurricane Irma. The HQ EOC is coordinating on several levels with R2, R4, and other Federal agencies. The HQ EOC has deployed personnel to the FEMA NRCC to staff the ESF #10 desk. EPA Senior Management that comprise the (PCC) developed and issued senior management objectives that form the basis of field strategy and tactics in response to Irma.

Number of HQ Personnel Involved in the EOC:

Personnel	AO	OAR	OCFO	OCSPP	OECA	OEI	OGC	OLEM	OP	ORD	OW	R3	ATSDR	Totals
Employees	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	15	1	2	1	1	1	27
Contractors	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	7
TOTAL	1	1	0	2	0	4	1	19	1	2	1	1	1	34

National Incident Management Team (N-IMAT):

EPA activated the N-IMAT (highly skilled response personnel from Regions 1 and 2) to advise and assist R2 with response activities. The N-IMAT team deployed to Region 2's REOC in Edison, NJ to support their response to Hurricane Irma. R4 members of N-IMAT supporting R6 are in the process of demobilizing with Situation Unit Leader and Logistics Unit Leader demobilizing on September 6th, Deputy Incident Commander on September 7th, and Finance Section Chief on September 8th.

EPA Laboratory/Analytical Services:

R2 and R4 held planning discussions but no field operations.

Air Monitoring:

R2 and R4 held planning discussions but no field operations.

Drinking Water/Wastewater Assessments:

R2 and R4 held planning discussions but no field operations.

Other EPA Activities

Fuel Waivers:

Affected State	Waiver Request	Date Received	Status Talking Point	Waiver Response
Reid Vapor Pressure and Reformulated Gasoline Requirement Waivers				
AL, AR, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MS, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OK, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, VT, WI, WV	None - exempt	N/A	On Sep 7, EPA issued a waiver of the federal requirements for low volatility “summertime” gasoline requirements in all east coast states located in PADD 1, all midwestern states located in PADD 2, and all Gulf coast states located in PADD 3. In addition, EPA waived the Reformulated Gasoline (RFG) requirements in these same states. This waiver supersedes the August 31 waiver of the gasoline requirements for PADDs 1-3.	https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-09/documents/multi-statefuelwaiver090717.pdf
US territories (PR / USVI)	None - Exempt	N/A	The Clean Air Act exempts U.S. territories from low RVP requirements. Therefore, there is no requirement to waive in the event of a fuel supply disruption.	N/A

Affected State	Waiver Request	Date Received	Status Talking Point	Waiver Response
Dyed NRLM Diesel Fuel Waiver				
Florida	Florida Department of Environmental Protection requests use of 15 parts per million sulfur non-road diesel to be used as highway diesel fuel, waiving red dye requirements	9/6/17	Granted 9/6/17 through 9/22/17	https://www.epa.gov/enforcement/florida-fuels-waivers

***PADD: Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts**

Communications:

EPA activated the Crisis Communication Plan to ensure rapid response to providing coordinated, accurate, up-to-date information regarding its field activities. HQ EPA issued a press release discussing security of Florida Superfund sites prior to Hurricane Irma. EOC PIO continues to work on posting fact sheets on a variety of response topics, portraying EPA's role in the disaster and how each office provides support the response to Hurricane Irma.

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